

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2326

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL - AG COMM

REF: A. STATE 037608; B. BOGOTA 1172

1. IF PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH POLICE BY AG OR CUSTOMS TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CARTAGENA/BOGOTA AND BUENAVISTA, THE FACILITIES THEORETICALLY COULD HAVE BEEN PROVIDED. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, HOWEVER, COORDINATION BETWEEN GOC LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IS DIFFICULT. IN FACT FOR MANY YEARS, FIRST UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM, AND NOW UNDER THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM CONTINUING ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ESTABLISH A COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS NET IN COLOMBIA WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

2. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AG AND THE NATIONAL POLICE IS PARTICULARLY TROUBLED AT THE PRESENT IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD BECAUSE THE PRIMARY, AND POSSIBLY EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE AG UNDER A REORGANIZATION OF THE JUDICIAL POLICE FUNCTIONS. THE NATIONAL POLICE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS CURTAILMENT OF THEIR AUTHORITY AND ARE FIGHTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW NARCOTICS UNIT IN THE AG. POLICE OFFICIALS ARE TRYING TO CAST DOUBT UPON THE VIABILITY OF THE AG NARCOTICS UNIT BOTH
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ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND PRACTICAL POLITICAL GROUNDS. THEY HAVE INDICATED TO MISSION OFFICERS THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE AG SPECIFICALLY IN MATTERS INVOLVING COMMODITIES PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED TO THE POLICE BY THE U.S. UNDER THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

3. THERE IS NO SIMPLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. IT WOULD BE

THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO DEMAND THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BE TURNED OVER TO THE AG. POLICE FIRST PLACE, HOWEVER, OBTAINING POLICE COMPLIANCE WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE TO SAY THE LEAST, AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, THE AG COULD NEITHER ABSORB AND UTILIZE THE EQUIPMENT NOR COULD IT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. AT THIS STAGE THE BEST SOLUTION SEEMS TO BE TO LEAVE THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE POLICE FOR THEIR USE IN THEIR NORMAL POLICE WORK. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM THE EQUIPMENT AND PRESUMABLY WOULD MAINTAIN IT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE AG COULD BE EQUIPPED TO UTILIZE THE EQUIPMENT ON A NON-COMPETITIVE, UNOBTRUSIVE BASIS THAT WOULD BE AT LEAST TACITLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE POLICE. FOLLOWING IS A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ANY JOINT USE, AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

4. THERE IS NO LONG DISTANCE HF/SSB CIRCUIT EXISTENT BETWEEN CARTAGENA, BOGOTA AND BUENAVISTA. THE AG HAS NO TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD BE USED ON EXISTING POLICE FACILITIES.

5. THIS MISSION IS AWARE OF THE LOCATION AND OPERATIONAL STATUS OF F2 REPEATERS. THE CERRO KENNEDY REPEATER PROVIDES EXCELLENT COVERAGE OF MOST OF THE NORTH COAST. THIS COVERAGE DOES NOT EXTEND TO BUENAVISTA. IN ANY CASE THERE ARE NO F2 RADIOS ASSIGNED TO CARTAGENA OR BUENAVISTA CAPABLE OF OPER-
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ATIFG THROUGH THE REPEATER. ON ONE OCCASION THE U.S. CONTRACT TELECOM SPECIALIST ARRANGED FOR THE LOAN OF F2 RADIOS FROM SANTA MARTA CAPABLE OF OPERATING THROUGH THE KENNEDY REPEATER. THESE RADIOS WERE TO BE USED ON AN OPERATION BY F2 AGENTS FROM BOGOTA. THE AGENTS REFUSED TO USE THEM FOR FEAR OF BEING MONITORED BY THEIR OWN NORTH COAST PEOPLE. IF F2 DOES NOT TRUST THEIR OWN FACILITY IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE AG WOULD USE F2 FACILITIES.

6. WE ARE CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO REACH SOME SORT OF ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE AG AND POLICE SO THAT THE POLICE FACILITIES CAN BE USED. THE AG HAS REFUSED TO USE ANY F2 FACILITY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE MAY POSSIBLY CIRCUMVENT THIS BY PROVIDING THE AG RADIOS WITH SCRAMBLERS SO THAT POLICE REPEATERS CAN BE USED WITHOUT BEING MONITORED. THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF ONE AGENCY USING ANOTHER'S ASSIGNED FREQUENCIES ARE ALSO BEING INVESTIGATED. F2, DAS AND CUSTOMS ALL USE DIFFERENT REPEATER FREQUENCIES. THE POLICE COMM DIVISION WILL NOT MAINTAIN ANY RADIO EQUIPMENT THAT IS NOT ON THEIR INVENTORY. THIS IS TRUE OF EVEN F2 RADIOS AND REPEATERS WHICH ONLY RECENTLY WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE COMM DIVISION. THIS PROBLEM IS UNDER INVESTIGATION AND MAY POSSIBLY BE RESOLVED BY AN AG CONTRACT

WITH A PRIVATE FIRX.

7. AS A MATTER OF COURSE THE U.S. CONTRACT TELECOX SPECIALIST IS SPENDING A LARGE PORTION OF HIS TIME IN ATTEMPTING TO COORDINATE INTER-AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND THROUGH THE AG COMMUNICATION'S OFFICER IS ADVISING THE NARCOTICS GROUP ON CURRENT COMM OPERATIONS AND FUTURE PLANNING. THIS CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANNING INCLUDES THE IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR OPERATIONS BY INSTALLING GOOD SSB EQUIPMENT IN ALL FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, EQUIPPING ONE AIRCRAFT WITH COMPLETE COXM FACILITIES INCLUDING UHF REPEATER, CONVERTACOM, ETC. TO FUNCTION AS AN OBSERVATION AND COMM CENTER. GROUFD PERSONNEL WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH PORTABLE SSB AND UHF UNITS AS REQUIRED. THE GROUND OPERATIONS CENTER FOR A PARTICULAR MISSION WOULD
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HAVE LONG RANGE SSB CAPABILITY - CARTAGENA TO BOGOTA FOR INSTANCE, ALONG WITH AIR GROUND AND LOCAL POINT TO POINT CAPABILITY. ASECIO

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